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Message Text

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43
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NEA-10 IO-14

ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 261233Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7947
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO /AMEMBASSY OSLO 1741
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2669

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:MILI NATO DA
SUBJ: CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: COPENHAGEN 2666

1. IN MY INITIAL CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER OCT 25, WE DISCUSSED SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF DENMARK CONTRIBUTING PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (COPENHAGEN 2666).

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY REGARDING THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THE DEFENSE REFORM COMPROMISE, MOLLER SAID, IN CONTRAST TO THE OPINION OF MANY OF THE DANISH MILITARY LEADERS, THAT THE TRAINING NOW BEING GIVEN TO THE NINE-MONTH INDUCTEES WAS SUPERIOR TO THAT GIVEN UNDER THE PREVIOUS TWELVE-MONTH SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT WITH THE VOLUNTARY OPTION TO CONTINUE BEYOND THE NINE MONTHS AT ADDITIONAL PAY, THE COVER FORCE OF 9000 MEN WOULD BE A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE FORCE. MOLLER'S
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VIEWS APPEAR TO HAVE MERIT. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE

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DEFENSE COMPROMISE FROM ITS INCEPTION AND HE, IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, IS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S CONSERVATIVE, STAUNCHLY PRO-NATO, WING. MOREOVER, HE WAS FRANK ENOUGH TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE SUPPLEMENTARY FORCE CONCEPT WAS DEVELOPING. HE ADMITTED THIS MATTER HAD NOT RECEIVED ENOUGH THOUGHT IN THE PLANNING STAGE AND THAT HE WAS NOW UNDERTAKING A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE TRAINING SYSTEM FOR THAT FORCE.

3. MOLLER APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN OVER HIS DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES WITH CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION. HE COMMENTED THAT HIS POLITICAL CAREER HAD COMMENCED IN THE OFFICE IN WHICH WE SAT--AN IMPRESSIVE 17TH CENTRY SALON THE WALLS OF WHICH CONSISTED OF PAINTED PANELS DEPICITNG ST. MARK'S SQUARE IN VENICE--WHEN HE ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE AS A JUNIOR MP. HE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH A RECENT POLL TAKEN AMONG 5000 DANISH DRAFTEES WHICH INDICATED THAT NINETY-FIVE PERCENT WERE FABORABLY DISPOSED TO THE DANISH DEFENSE PROGRAM--A CONSIDERABLE IMPORVEMENT OVER PAST POLLS. HE ASSURED ME THAT DURING HIS PERIOD AS DEFENSE MINISTER HE HOPED NOT ONLY TO ADMINISTER THE DEFENSE REFORM PROGRAM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS BUT TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING, WHERE POSSIBLE WITHIN PRACTICAL POLITICAL LIMITS.
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